



## U.S. Department of Justice

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### **THREE INDIVIDUALS CHARGED WITH CORRUPTION IN CONNECTION WITH IRONWORKERS UNION PENSION PLANS**

ROCKFORD -- PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, J. D. NICHOLS, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Region of the United States Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General, Office of Labor Racketeering and Fraud Investigations, and KENNETH M. BAZAR, Regional Director of the Chicago Regional Office of the United States Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration, today made the following announcement:

A federal grand jury in Rockford today returned separate indictments charging three individuals with corruption in connection with the pension plans of two locals of the Ironworkers Union. Indicted were **THOMAS C. KISTING**, 53, Rockford, **FRED SCHREIER**, 58, Willow Springs, Illinois, and **MICHAEL LINDER**, 58, Crete, Illinois. Kisting and Schreier were each charged with one count of receipt of a motorcycle from Linder because of Kisting's and Schreier's duties concerning pension funds of the union locals. Linder was charged with two counts of giving motorcycles to Kisting and Schreier because of their duties concerning the pension funds.

The indictment returned today against **Thomas C. Kisting** charges that Kisting was the Business Manager for Ironworkers Local 498, located in Rockford, Illinois, and acted as the Plan Administrator and as an agent for Local 498's two pension funds. The indictment alleges that the two pension funds entered into administrative services agreements with Joseph/Anthony and Associates, Inc., a corporation whose president was Michael Linder. The indictment charges that Kisting received from Joseph/Anthony and Linder a 1999 Harley Davidson motorcycle valued at \$19,808.10 because of Kisting's actions, decisions and other duties relating to the pension funds.

The indictment returned today against **Fred Schreier** charges that Schreier was the President of Ironworkers Local 136, located in River Grove, Illinois, also known as the Machinery Movers, Riggers and Machinery Erectors Local 136. According to the indictment, Schreier was also a trustee for Local 136's two pension funds. The indictment alleges that Local 136's two pension funds entered into administrative services agreements with Joseph/Anthony and Associates, Inc. The indictment charges that Schreier received from Joseph/Anthony and Linder a 1999 Harley Davidson motorcycle valued at \$19,060 because of Schreier's actions, decisions and other duties relating to the pension funds.

The indictment returned today against **Michael Linder** charges that Linder was President of Joseph/Anthony and that Joseph/Anthony entered into Administrative Services Agreements with pension funds for Ironworkers Local 498 in Rockford, Illinois, and pension funds for Ironworkers Local 136 in River Grove, Illinois. According to the indictment, Linder gave Thomas C. Kisting a 1999 Harley Davidson motorcycle valued at \$19,808.10 because of Kisting's actions, decisions and other duties relating to the pension funds of Ironworkers Local 498, and that Linder gave Fred Schreier a 1999 Harley Davidson motorcycle valued at \$19,060 because of Schreier's actions, decisions and other duties relating to the pension funds of Ironworkers Local 136.

If convicted of the crimes charged in the indictments, Kisting and Schreier each face up to 3 years of imprisonment and a fine of up to \$250,000, and Linder faces up to 6 years of imprisonment and a fine of up to \$500,000. The arraignments for all three defendants have been set for February 3, 2004, at 11:00 a.m. before Magistrate Judge P. Michael Mahoney in the federal courthouse in Rockford. The case was investigated by the Chicago offices of the Department of Labor, Office of Labor Racketeering and Fraud Investigations and Employee Benefits Security Administration. It will be prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney JOHN G. McKENZIE.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. Each defendant is entitled to a fair trial at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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